



News from White Haven

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, dedicated to Civil War General and 18th President Ulysses S. Grant and his wife, Julia Dent Grant, is located in south St. Louis County, Missouri.

News from White Haven is a quarterly publication of Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. It is also available online by visiting www.nps.gov/ulsg/.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Saying farewell to Mike Ward



Former superintendent Mike Ward, pictured in 2007 at left and in 1995 at right, logged many hours of restoration work on White Haven as maintenance chief.

Since the early 1990s, Mike Ward has been an integral part of White Haven's emergence as a National Park Service site. After starting his career at Ulysses S. Grant as maintenance chief in 1992, he carried the park through the completion of construction and exhibit development as its superintendent. Over the years, through demolition and restoration efforts, contracting and construction challenges, he got his hands dirty making the park what it is today.

In an NPS statement, Mike said, "Today, visitors to Ulysses S. Grant NHS have the opportunity to experience a real-life setting combined with a world-class museum that tell the Grants' story within their

time period of American history. We achieved this through a combined effort of the Park Service staff and assistance from partners across the nation and from within our local community."

Mike departed in August to pursue new horizons in northern Minnesota as the superintendent at Voyageurs National Park. We wish him all the best.

The process to hire the next superintendent at White Haven will begin soon. During the interim Ann Honious will serve in an acting capacity. On August 18, Ann began a nine-week detail from Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park in Ohio.

Decision 1868: Grant as a Candidate

The presidential election campaign of 2008 has already been historic and has generated much attention and interest well in advance of the coming election. In our nation's past, however, the American public's level of interest in presidential campaigns has ranged from casual to passionate.

Ulysses Grant accepted the Republican nomination for President in the 1868 election. Many who were desperate for healing welcomed the thought of their hero becoming the 18th President of the United States.

Reconstruction, the political process of readmitting the former Confederate states into the Union and ensuring liberty

for former slaves, was the primary issue of the campaign. In 1868, anxious as the country was for peace, there was no unity of thought on how this should be done.

When Ulysses Grant took office, he held the position that the South should not be punished and that the former slaves should be protected in their newly-acquired freedom. This stance came under political attack from many directions, but Grant, given his military bearing, moral commitment and political inexperience, was unwavering.

Grant's position on the rights of the freed slaves grew to require increasingly stronger measures, and the resolve he dedicated to the matter was



Image: Library of Congress, 1868.

not fully supported by the public. Nevertheless, Grant was able to accomplish much in the field of civil rights and in other political issues during his first administration and he was overwhelmingly elected to a second term in 1872.

Dr. John Y. Simon Remembered By Park Staff

Staff, volunteers and friends of the site were saddened to learn of the unexpected death of Dr. John Y. Simon on July 8, 2008. Dr. Simon's lifelong work as editor of *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*, with 28 volumes currently published, and his editing and publishing of *The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant* have been instrumental in the establishment and development of the site. His work provided a wealth of primary resource material and scholarly comment that was used by thousands of scholars of the Civil War, Grant, and Abraham Lincoln.



Dr. John Y. Simon (1933-2008) addresses park visitors during Ulysses S. Grant NHS's Grand Opening celebration, on June 16, 2007.

We could pick up the phone or send an e-mail and know that he was always available to

answer a question or provide insightful commentary about the work we were doing.

It was our great pleasure to host the Ulysses S. Grant Association meeting this past May; receiving Dr. Simon's kind words of appreciation for the weekend's events made it all worthwhile.

Dr. Simon will be missed by all of us, as an outstanding historian and professor, and even more as a friend. We send our condolences to his wonderful wife, Harriet, and the rest of his family.

Spotlight on the Park: Political Cartoon Exhibit

During this election year, political caricatures are daily occurrences in the media. Ulysses S. Grant NHS will display an exhibit about political cartoons in the Visitor Center from October 20 through November 16 to demonstrate the rich history of this form of political analysis.

Political cartoons, in the form of caricatures, originated with Leonardo da Vinci. Cartoons as editorials developed in Germany during the Protestant Reformation, beginning in 1517. In this country, Benjamin Franklin is credited with the first political cartoon. "Join, or Die" was an explicit attempt to join the colonies together against the Iroquois at the Albany Congress of 1754.

Political cartoons still serve to convey social commentary and raise public awareness of important political and cultural issues, creating both positive and negative impressions.

The exhibit will look at political cartoons in America through the lens of several presidents, especially Grant, showing how the country viewed these men, and gauging the public response to how they conducted their administrations and met the challenges of their times.

Fun and Games at ParkPalooza!



What-a-hooza? ParkPalooza! Hosted on the grounds of the Gateway Arch by the National Park Service, this free, family-friendly event will bring together national, state, and local parks for fun, games and learning. It will be a great opportunity to experience a variety of park-related activities all in one place.

Rock climbing, wildlife encounters, fishing, hiking, biking, historic characters and archaeology are just a few of the other things to explore. Ulysses S. Grant NHS rangers and volunteers will be on site leading archaeological digs and adventures with 19th century clothing. Check it out online at parkpalooza.org!

Kids' Corner: Election Word Scramble

Unscramble the following words related to presidential elections.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. rpmyira _____ | 5. eldsenripita _____ |
| 2. vongit _____ | 6. mpganiac _____ |
| 3. oeeterlatc _____ | 7. etuicvexe _____ |
| 4. atslblo _____ | 8. esehpc _____ |

Answers: 1. primary, 2. voting, 3. electorate, 4. ballots, 5. presidential, 6. campaign, 7. executive, 8. speech



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Upcoming Events

- September 27-28: ParkPalooza celebration at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
- October 5: Apple press and wood carving demonstrations at Ulysses S. Grant NHS, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- October 11-12: Civil War Living History Days at Hardscrabble, Grant's Farm
- October 20 - November 16: Political Cartoons exhibit in Ulysses S. Grant NHS Visitor Center
- November 8-9: "Generals to Presidents" program at Ulysses S. Grant NHS, 2 p.m.

Did you know?

During their thirty-seven years of marriage, the longest Ulysses and Julia Grant lived continuously in one place was their eight years in the White House. That, in part, explains Julia's comment, "It [the White House] still seems as much like home to me as the old farm in Missouri..."

In 1876, the possibility of Grant serving a third term in

office arose and gained momentum in newspapers of the day. One Sunday, Julia was mystified by an unscheduled gathering of Grant's cabinet and by her husband's reluctance to reveal the purpose of the meeting. Later, at Julia's urging, Grant informed his wife that he did not want a third term, had written a letter to that effect, and read it to his advisors.

Julia was most distressed, as she had hoped to spend four more years in the White House, and asked Grant to read her the letter. He replied that the letter had already been sent to avoid giving her the opportunity to try to change his mind.

Based on information from *The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant (Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant)*.